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Oceans and the law of the sea

Note verbale dated 6 February 2014 from the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and has the honour to transmit herewith the diplomatic note dated 5 February 2014 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Maria Ángela Holguín Cuéllar, addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, by means of which the Government of Colombia makes a declaration concerning the letter of the Republic of Nicaragua dated 20 December 2013 with the terms and conditions contained therein (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations would be grateful if the Secretary-General would circulate the present note to all Members of the United Nations, including States parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 76, and transmit it to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf.

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Annex to the note verbale dated 6 February 2014 from the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English]

5 February 2014

I have the honour to address you on the occasion of referring to the letter sent by the Republic of Nicaragua on 20 December 2013 in relation to our note of 24 September 2013, wherein we expressed our concern with regard to Nicaragua's document entitled "Submission to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf pursuant to article 76, paragraph 8, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982 — Part I: Executive Summary", submitted by Nicaragua on 24 June 2013 and published on the Commission's website. In reference to the aforementioned, we would like to reiterate our concern regarding various matters.

Nicaragua's submission makes reference to submarine areas in the Caribbean Sea that belong to Colombia under international law. The Republic of Colombia rejects Nicaragua's submission in which it claims rights to the seabed and the subsoil of the submarine areas appurtenant to the Colombian islands in the Caribbean as well as Colombia's continental territory. It should also be noted that Nicaragua's submission disregards matters relating to the delimitation of boundaries with Colombia which have already been resolved.

Furthermore, we reaffirm that the Republic of Colombia is not a party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. As a result, Nicaragua's submission is not opposable to Colombia and does not affect Colombia's rights to its continental shelf. Colombia also reiterates that it has not consented to this procedure.

By virtue of the above, the Republic of Colombia reiterates the terms of our notes of 22 April 2013 and 24 September 2013 submitted to you, and trusts that the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf will refrain from considering Nicaragua's submission of 24 June 2013.

The Government of the Republic of Colombia requests that this note be circulated to all Members of the United Nations, including the States parties to the aforementioned convention, and be transmitted to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf.

(*Signed*) María Ángela **Holguín Cuéllar**
Minister for Foreign Affairs